

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for preparing propargyl alcohol, the process comprising: ~~by~~

converting an aqueous formaldehyde solution comprising acetylene over a catalyst comprising copper acetylide at an operating pressure of from 1 to 15 bar and from 70 to 120°C without forming a continuous gas phase, wherein the aqueous formaldehyde solution comprises tetrahydrofuran as the organic solvent for acetylene and the catalyst is arranged in a fluidized bed.

Claim 2 (Original): The process according to claim 1, wherein the expansion factor of the fluidized bed is  $\leq 1.15$ .

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The process ~~according to either of claims 1 and 2~~ of claim 1, wherein the operating pressure is from 3 to 7 bar.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The process ~~according to any of claims 1 to 3~~ of claim 1, wherein the pH of the aqueous formaldehyde solution is adjusted to from 3 to 8.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The process ~~according to any of claims 1 to 4~~ of claim 1, wherein the weight ratio of organic solvent to formaldehyde in the aqueous formaldehyde solution is from 0.1:1 to 20:1.

Claim 6 (New): The process of claim 2, wherein the operating pressure is from 3 to 7 bar.

Claim 7 (New): The process of claim 2, wherein the pH of the aqueous formaldehyde solution is adjusted to from 3 to 8.

Claim 8 (New): The process of claim 2, wherein the weight ratio of organic solvent to formaldehyde in the aqueous formaldehyde solution is from 0.1:1 to 20:1.